

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1325
By Hargett

A RESOLUTION to recognize Representative Diane Black of Hendersonville on her meritorious service as a member of the House of Representatives of the Tennessee General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor our colleagues who in their years in office have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Representative Diane Black is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for six years representing the 45th House District in Sumner County; as a legislator, her service to and concern for her constituents has been unparalleled; and

WHEREAS, having served with great distinction in the 101st through the 103rd General Assemblies, Representative Black is pursuing a higher, if less prestigious, elected office after the expiration of her current term; and

WHEREAS, after receiving her Associate of Science degree in Nursing from Anne Arundel College in 1971, Diane Black worked as a Registered Nurse for many years before earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Belmont University in 1991; and

WHEREAS, Diane Black is an active and important part of her community who participates in numerous worthy organizations, including service on the Boards of the YMCA, Hendersonville Chamber of Commerce and American Heart Association and as a member of the Gallatin Chamber of Commerce and the Hendersonville League of Women Voters; and

WHEREAS, this outstanding public servant is a Past President of the Hendersonville Rotary Club, the Gallatin Chapter of the American Cancer Society, the Leadership Sumner Alumni Association, P.E.O., and the Gallatin Toastmasters; a Past Vice President of Habitat for Humanity of Sumner County; and a Past Chair of The United Way of Sumner County; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, she was honored as Rotarian of the Year by the Hendersonville Rotary Club in 1993, Leadership Sumner Distinguished Alumni in 1998, and Sumner County YMCA Volunteer of the Year in 2001; and

WHEREAS, for nine years, she participated in annual mission trips with the Rotary Club, travelling to Guatemala to provide much needed medical and dental services; and

WHEREAS, during her illustrious career in the House of Representatives, Diane Black has served on the House standing committees of Education and Children and Family Affairs and the Domestic Relations and K-12 subcommittees; her colleagues on both sides of the aisle accord her high marks for her legislative acumen, skill in debate, and thorough knowledge of complex state government issues; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's health care system has been a major concern for Diane Black throughout her distinguished tenure in the House; she has pursued this concern as a member of the special House committee to study Student Health and Academic Achievement and as Chair of the House Republican Caucus's Health Care Task Force; and

WHEREAS, especially cognizant of the fact that good student health is one of the most critical factors in promoting academic success and therefore seeking to assure the physical and psychological well being of students statewide, Representative Black and the other members of the special House committee to study Student Health and Academic Achievement worked closely with the Department of Health and the Department of Education to oversee the implementation of the "Coordinated School Health Improvement Act," which allocated one million new dollars to help local education agencies establish school health programs or hire school nurses; and

WHEREAS, Representative Black, as Chair of the House Republican Caucus's Health Care Task Force, spearheaded the Caucus's efforts to positively influence the future of health care policy in Tennessee by ensuring access to quality health care for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Representative Black was instrumental in the research, development and final proposal of the Task Force's CARE (Comprehensive, Accessible, Responsible and Efficient) principles for health care reform, which struck an equitable balance between sound business practice and a sincere compassion for those served, while promoting the efficient use of taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, under her sagacious leadership, the Task Force unanimously endorsed proposals to enact major medical malpractice / tort reforms as a means of stemming the tide of escalating medical liability insurance premiums in Tennessee and their correlative effect on health care costs; and

WHEREAS, when the 103rd General Assembly convened in January 2003, Representative Black was honored to be the Republican Caucus's nominee for Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, she has previously served the House Republican Caucus with distinction as its Treasurer for the One Hundred Second General Assembly and as Assistant Floor Leader during the One Hundred First General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Representative Black worked with courage and conviction for the passage of Tennessee's new .08 blood-alcohol level standard for presumed intoxication in relation to DUI conviction, which took effect on July 1, 2003; and

WHEREAS, always placing the safety of Tennesseans as one of her top priorities, Representative Black saw this landmark legislation through to passage as a means of saving thousands of lives by significantly reducing the number of alcohol-related traffic fatalities, perhaps by as much as forty percent; and

WHEREAS, Representative Black's efforts to end smoking in Tennessee's historic Capitol building came to fruition on January 13, 2004, when the House of Representatives voted to ban smoking in the House Chamber; and

WHEREAS, by embracing the worthy causes of hygiene and historic preservation, Representative Black has helped to improve both the health and the image of the General Assembly by means of this measure; and

WHEREAS, her many personal and professional achievements aside, Diane Black is most appreciative of the love and support she receives from her husband, Dr. David Black, and their three children, Steve, Jill and Katie, and two grandsons, Warren and Joseph; and

WHEREAS, Diane Black exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family, community and good government that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable legislative career, Representative Black has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability and integrity, winning the unbridled respect

and admiration of her constituents, her colleagues in the House of Representatives, as well as the members of the Senate; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we bid a fond farewell, but not goodbye, to our friend and colleague, Representative Diane Black, extend to her our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, every continued success in her future endeavors in the Upper Chamber of the General Assembly, and much happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.